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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK
Committed to promoting women's economic independence in Ontario

TORONTO – The achievements of women across the province will be recognized this week as Ontario celebrates International Women's Week from March 7 – 13 and International Women's Day on March 8, Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues announced today.

"International Women's Week is a time for us to celebrate Ontario women, including those who continue to work towards full equality: women who are breaking down barriers in business, education, technology, sports, law, medicine and many other sectors," said Pupatello. "By improving women's economic independence, the McGuinty government is building strong and vital communities that offer a high quality of life."

International Women's Day was first observed on March 8, 1911 to acknowledge women's struggles. It was officially designated by the United Nations in 1977. Today, International Women's Day and International Women's Week are recognized as a global celebration of women's accomplishments and advancements towards equality. This year, Status of Women Canada has set the theme for International Women's Week as She's on a Role.

The Ontario Women's Directorate provides grants through programs that promote women's economic independence, such as Women in Skilled Trades and Partners for Change. The directorate's website also offers resources on a broad range of issues including information for women who have experienced abuse. The site also features a youth zone that deals with topics such as sexual harassment, healthy relationships, and the accomplishments of women in Ontario's history.

"The Ontario government is committed to providing all Ontarians with a quality of life second to none," said Pupatello. "Millions of women in Ontario are helping to create a strong and vibrant society through their outstanding achievements in the workplace, in their communities and in their homes. International Women's Day and International Women's Week give us an opportunity to celebrate these contributions."

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Contacts:
Sara Best, Minister's Office, (416) 325-5213
Tony Brown, Communications, (416) 314-7242

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